

NEWS

From the Office of

Supervisor Neil Derry

County of San Bernardino, Third District

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For more information, contact
Jim Erwin, Chief of Staff
(909) 387-4855

Derry prompts action to ensure quick snow removal

At the urging of Supervisor Neil Derry, the County Public Works Department is garnering every possible resource to speed up snow removal and clear county-maintained roads in the San Bernardino County mountain communities.

Public Works is contacting a variety of privately-owned snow-removal contractors to supplement the county's fleet of snowplows, which has been taxed beyond its limits by unusually heavy snowfall. Contractors will be assigned to major county roads, freeing up county crews to work on smaller county roads.

"Our goal is to create access as quickly as possible for everyone who lives and works in our mountain communities," Supervisor Derry said. "Keeping roads clear so people can get to and from their homes is a basic government service, and we owe it to the taxpayers to pull out all the stops to get this accomplished."

While working as quickly as possible to bring in contractors, the Public Works Department is also being cautious about making sure all snowplow operators are qualified and familiar with our local mountains. Snow removal should only be performed by trained and experienced personnel to avoid damage to mailboxes, utility equipment and fire hydrants.

In the meantime, motorists are urged to refrain from driving through deep snow. Those who travel before snowplows have had a chance to clear roads not only risk damage and injury to themselves, other motorists, pedestrians, and property, but stranded vehicles blocking snowplows will be promptly towed at the owner's expense.

The County is also in contact with CALTRANS to ascertain why Highways 18 and 138 are not being properly maintained.